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PART V. EIGHT PAGES.

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WORLD-WIDE SCRAMBLE TO BOARD WATER WAGON

Troops of King Barleycorn Routed on Many Fields Here and Abroad.

By EARL N. FINDLEY.

KING BARLEYCORN appears to be making a last stand against the field. History may name this struggle as the greatest in human annals, using the European war merely for a background. Prohibitionists may, if they choose, sit back and smile.

For years they have "hired a hall," presented statistics, told sentimental stories and offered graphic illustrations tending to prove that alcohol was no good as a food and that its other claims for attention were founded on error.

And what has happened? Russia has gone dry. The revenue from the sale of vodka reached \$500,000,000 a year, but the Russian Chancellor stated recently that the country was getting double that income by way of increased efficiency of the workmen and farmers.

Soon after the war started President Poincaré of France issued a proclamation ordering the stoppage of the manufacture or sale of absinthe. The French Chamber voted nearly \$3,000,000 to reimburse absinthe sellers for taxes paid by them and for the purchase of liquors in their possession, as preliminary to prohibition. The President says he will drink no absinthe while the war lasts.

"THE KAISER IS AN ABSTAINER—IN THE MATTER OF ALCOHOL."

Germany's beer output, it appears, has been curtailed 40 per cent "to save grain for bread and feed purposes," which would imply that beer is not really a substitute for food, and dispatches assert that now there is a restriction of the sale of whiskey in Essen, the city of Krupp guns, which would imply that beer sales have not really stopped whiskey sales, as we have been so often told.

The Kaiser is an abstainer—in the matter of alcohol. Further, he favors the referendum for a vote on wet or dry throughout the German states.

"Beer and whiskey are among the major curses of this country," Arnold Bennett cabled to this country from England last month. And he added: "Government can properly give aid to the aspirations toward sobriety which all of us, even tipplers and drunkards, have in our secret souls."

King George V of England has just urged abstinence from liquor during the war, and declares he will not use intoxicants while hostilities are in progress. Lord Kitchener follows with the statement that he will do without, thank you, at least until the war is over.

And Secretary Bryan's support of the makers of grape juice has long been an international topic.

Plenty of excuse, therefore, for prohibitionists the world over to recline in attitudes more or less graceful and smile indulgently at the rest of mankind. But it appears on investigation that prohibitionists, in this city at least, do not recline.

They have been campaigning for so many years, have been the butt of so many jokes; so many distilleries, most of them working nights to supply the demand, have been pointed out to them in so many sections of the globe, and Carrie Nation to so many uninterested persons seemed to accomplish so little after all, that as a class prohibitionists take little thought concerning relaxation now the chance to snatch a little has arrived.

No one has a better right to take a rest, if inclined that way, which he isn't, than Dr. A. A. Hopkins, whom the writer interviewed a few days ago. As a former candidate for Governor of New York on the Prohibition ticket, present editor of "The National Advocate," which is the official organ of the National Temperance Society and the National Inter-Church Temperance Federation; author of more than half a dozen books, including "Wealth and Waste," which is in use in four hundred colleges as a textbook on the economics of the temperance question, Dr. Hopkins is one of the best qualified men in this country to epitomize present conditions in this field.

WAR TEACHES WHAT SCIENTISTS AND ECONOMISTS ALREADY KNEW.

Asked what he thought of recent developments regarding prohibition in Great Britain, Dr. Hopkins promptly said:

"The great governments of Europe, their governing classes and a good part of their people have learned in eight months of war what reformers and scientists and economists have been teaching through years of peace—that drink is a leech upon labor, the curse of capital, a peril to national prosperity, the greatest foe of industrial efficiency."

"The liquor traffic has been robbing those nations overseas just as it has been and still is robbing our own nation of the greatest productive ability, the surest returns upon investments of money and manhood. In times of peace this pillage can be borne, perhaps for long periods; in time of war the burden of it can not be carried. It grows too costly for commerce, too heavy for patriotism, too piratical for justice, too unwise for statesmanship."

"But," Dr. Hopkins was asked, "does not the liquor traffic help by the taxation upon it to carry the burdens of war?"

"Never more than by its taxation does it help to bear the burdens of government in time of peace."

"Who pays the revenue derived from the liquor traffic at any time?" asked Dr. Hopkins. "The drinkers—the people. Distillers, brewers and barkeepers are merely the tax collectors



WAR'S FAIREST OFFSPRING.

appointed or permitted by government to receive what the people pay, and to keep all but a meagre percentage of it for their unhelpful service.

"When our own government adds a dollar a barrel to the tax on beer the brewer adds that much to the price paid by the barkeeper, and he adds to the price of a drink or shoves the bottom of his beer mugs a little nearer the top or puts more foam and less liquid into them."

"Then prohibitionists do not regard the national revenue from liquor makers and sellers as a fair share paid by the liquor trade for the support of government?" Dr. Hopkins was asked.

"We certainly do not. We insist that the revenue system is merely a partnership of the government and liquor, to the government's constant loss."

And then Dr. Hopkins made an astounding statement, as follows:

"Much less than \$250,000,000 a year is the national revenue of this country from liquor drunk; the cost of this to the drinkers is not less than two and a half billion dollars; its cost to the people is vastly more, and the people's loss on account of it is at least five billions of dollars a year."

"Is your statement of loss merely given in round figures and at random," Dr. Hopkins was asked, "or have you verified them, or can they be proved?"

"These tremendous figures," he replied, "came of the United States Census statistics for 1910 and estimates based upon these. I

prepared them with great care for a revised edition of my own work on 'Wealth and Waste.' They cover loss in production, of productive time, of productive life and loss in care and support. All these losses are itemized in my 'Recapitulation of Loss,' as you may see," and a copy of the book was produced to show these items.

"It is no wonder," said Dr. Hopkins, "that the British Cabinet became appalled when it began to study the facts and figures relating to drink, and found its actual effects upon life and labor."

Dr. Hopkins has pointed out in "Profit and Loss in Man" how, on the assumption that we are 100,000,000 people, and that there are annually eighteen deaths to every one thousand persons, and that, as Dr. Willard Parker estimates, 10 per cent of these deaths are due to alcoholic drinks, this means 180,000 lives given every year as an offering to the liquor traffic.

The total of soldiers killed in all the four years of our great Civil War, on both sides, was 116,000, or 64,000 less than this yearly number.

According to Mulhall, the great English statistician, Dr. Hopkins adds, the annual loss of life in all the great wars of the world—fifteen of such—during ninety years ending 1880, was barely 50,000—49,884—or considerably under one-third the total of yearly deaths caused by drink in this country alone.

An investigation in Germany some years ago, cites Dr. Hopkins, revealed that ten

quarts of alcohol, besides the beer, were consumed every year in Germany for every man, woman and child the empire contained; that the German Empire spent yearly one-fourth (\$750,000,000) as much for intoxicating drink as it did for food (\$3,000,000,000).

Russia has gone dry, it is asserted, as a result of the reform efforts and ideals here in the United States. It appears that Dr. Peter Semenovitch Alexyeff, of Moscow, came to Canada and this country back in 1886 for the inspection of hospitals, prisons, etc., and could not spend nine months on the errand "without coming in contact with the liquor problem." The story is told in the last issue of "The National Advocate" as follows:

"He was a live man, consecrated to the betterment of human conditions. His wife was with him, and perhaps she helped him to study. He published a book 'About America' in 1888, in the preface of which he paid tribute to 'the success of the fight with drunkenness—the temperance movement—and the successful development, in all classes of society, of morality and the strict application of practical morals.'"

"Apparently Tolstoy was his first conspicuous convert; and the pair of them seem to have compelled widespread attention to the temperance question all over Russia. Organization of temperance societies began, and the reformation was fairly on."

In statistics, which Dr. Hopkins says are cold, unfeeling figures, there being no sentiment or humanity or politics in addition and

multiplication, he offers a few comparisons as applying to this country, as follows:

Every twelve months the ten million or more drinkers in the United States pay over its liquor bars more money than the total of gold and silver mined and minted in this country in forty years.

Every ten months the direct and indirect loss and waste on account of the liquor traffic in this country is greater than all the gold produced in this country since the discovery of gold in California to the present time.

Since the discovery of gold in California (in 1848) that state has not produced enough of the yellow metal up to 1899 to pay the American liquor bill alone for sixteen months, not to mention the loss and waste caused by this. The figures are:

American drink bill for sixteen months, at the rate of 1899, \$1,426,199,802.

Production of gold in California, 1848-1898, \$1,354,182,097.

Since the discovery of America the entire production of gold and silver throughout the world, from 1493 to 1898, inclusive, a period of more than 400 years—\$20,480,748,600—would not pay the drink bill of this country for twenty years, on the basis of that bill for 1899.

Every nine months our drink bill exceeds all the capital of all the national banks of the United States.

Every eighteen months or less our drinking population pays for alcoholic beverages more money than the whole circulating medi-

Dr. Hopkins Talks of Events Which Make Prohibitionists Happy.

um of the nation—gold, silver and paper combined.

The encouraging thing to the Prohibitionists is that at the beginning of 1915 there were fifteen states under state-wide prohibition, either by statutory or constitutional provision:

Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

Several states will consider prohibition legislation in 1915, among them being Idaho, South Dakota, Montana, Iowa, Minnesota and Arkansas.

Fifteen other states have at some time since 1850 been under prohibition. Several states have passed, repealed and repassed prohibitory laws, making a total of forty-five different statutory or constitutional provisions for state-wide prohibition enacted in the United States.

In no case thus far, says Dr. Hopkins, where such a law has been adopted has an administration committed to prohibition as a governmental policy been placed in power to enforce the law; on the other hand, it has been turned over to officials who, though oftentimes personally favorable to such legislation, have been allied with political parties whose national policies, and most often whose state policies, have been opposed to such legislation.

THE CONSUMER A PRODUCT OF THE ALCOHOL HABIT.

"In economic terminology," said Dr. Hopkins to the writer, "the consumer is one who does not earn or produce as much as his keeping must cost. Therefore he counts in the consumer class. The more numerous he is, the less he benefits the community. He is a direct creation of the alcohol habit."

"The consumers fill our jails, our penitentiaries, our institutions for the defective, our insane asylums. They make taxes imperative and increasing. They are growing out of all proportion to the increase of population. Statistics in every state prove this assertion."

"The statement is made that in this country there are ten millions of people in actual poverty. Not one of these poverty stricken can count as a producer. The most reliable figures agree that at least three-fourths of all pauperism must be charged to intemperance."

"This is logical, for drink leads generally to want, because the habit of it leads naturally away from work. Every man who drinks loses from labor an increasing amount of time, loses for labor an increasing degree of taste and loses in labor an increasing degree of skill."

"The liquor traffic's capital invested in liquor manufacture was \$771,516,000 in 1912, and this capital employed but 62,920 workers—about 81 to every \$1,000,000."

"If employed in the textile mills, this same capital should have paid wages to over 445,000 workers—more than seven times as many. Take the five great groups of legitimate industries and average their employment of labor, and the \$771,000,000 of liquor capital would employ five times the number of workers that liquor manufacture employs."

LIQUOR'S TAX ON THE LABORER AND PRODUCER.

"If any town were to assess each laborer and producer in it 10 per cent of his daily earnings and income, and compel payment every day, with nothing to show for this when the day's end came, there would be speedy revolution. Yet liquor thus levies daily tax upon the laborer and the producer, and to a far greater extent, as a rule."

"Every saloon, every bar, taxes at least forty workmen on an average more than 10 per cent of their earnings, with absolutely non-compensating equivalent."

Dr. Hopkins added that Mrs. M. J. Anable, of Brooklyn, vouched for the record of one woman, reared under saloon influences and in the atmosphere of drink, and led down by these, as he put it, to the lowest immoralities. The woman died at fifty-one years of age.

Her descendants have been traced for seventy-five years (from 1827 to 1902) to the number of 800, of whom 700 have been criminals, convicted each at least once; 342 drunkards, acknowledged beyond question; 127 immoral women, and 37 murderers, executed for their crimes.

And, according to Mrs. Anable, through this one woman and her descendants the saloon and its immoral allies and their criminal tendencies have cost the producers of this nation at least \$3,000,000.

"We have a right to rejoice," said Dr. Hopkins, "that one effect of war is to show men the unwisdom of strong drink. It is not many months since the Kaiser told his people that in the next war the navy that drank the least liquor would win."

"Find the places in this country where the workingman's highest standard of living prevails and you will not see an open saloon. Close the saloon doors and other doors will open. Multiply saloons and you decrease all places of legitimate trade."

"I do not recall, out of all the many testimonies which have come before me concerning the effects of prohibition on banks and manufacturers and trade, a single town where the burden of business proof was against prohibition. I doubt if such an instance can be shown."

"If it could be, anywhere, would not the eremities of prohibition have heralded that town as a liquor object for the world?"